

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An air inlet system for a gas cooking apparatus comprising at least one gas burner and a burner box around said gas burner, said air inlet system comprising:

a cooktop configured to cover said burner box and having at least one peripheral vent cut configured to vent outside air into the burner box to provide air for the gas burner, said at least one vent cut defining a recessed corner of said cooktop; and

a vent trim attached to said cooktop and covering the vent cut, said vent trim having a surface with openings above a top surface of the cooktop, wherein said openings are configured to allow outside air to enter the vent cut through the vent trim.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) A system in accordance with ~~Claim 2~~ Claim 1 wherein said vent trim comprises a venting portion and an attachment portion overlapping a portion of the cooktop, wherein said attachment portion is sealed to said cooktop in water-tight engagement.

4. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 3 wherein said seal comprises adhesive tape.

5. (currently amended) A system in accordance with ~~Claim 2~~ Claim 1 further comprising at least one clip under said vent trim and said cooktop, said clip fixedly attaching said vent trim to said cooktop.

6. (currently amended) A system in accordance with ~~Claim 2~~ Claim 1 wherein said corner of said cooking top is a rear corner of said cooking top.

7. (currently amended) A system in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said cooktop has a plurality of vent ~~[[cut]]~~ cuts each disposed at more than one rear corner.

8. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said vent trim comprises a venting portion and an attachment portion overlapping a portion of the cooktop, wherein said attachment portion is sealed to said cooktop in water-tight engagement.

9. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising at least one clip under said vent trim and said cooktop, said clip fixedly attaching said vent trim to said cooktop.

10. (currently amended) An air inlet system for a gas cooking apparatus having at least one gas burner and a burner box around said gas burner, said air inlet system comprising:

a cooktop configured to cover said burner box and having at least one peripheral vent cut configured to vent outside air into the burner box to provide air for the gas burner; and

an elongate cover member attached to a top face of said cooktop and covering the vent cut, said cover member having a surface with openings configured to allow outside air to enter the vent cut through the cover member, ~~and~~ said cover member including a raised surface isolating said openings from spills on said cooktop, said raised surface defining an underlying cavity, and said cover member comprising at least one tab extending into said cavity to mount said cover member on said top face.

11. (currently amended) A system in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said cover member extends along an entire side of a said top face of said cooktop.

12. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said vent cut is along an edge of said cooktop exclusive of a corner of said cooktop.

13. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said cooktop has a plurality of vent cuts along said edge exclusive of said corner.

14. (currently amended) A system in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said elongate cover member is sealed in water tight engagement along a side of a said top face of said cooktop.

15. (currently amended) A system in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said ~~said~~ seal is an adhesive seal.

16. (currently amended) A gas cooking apparatus comprising:

at least one gas burner;

a burner box for said at least one gas burner;

a cooktop configured to cover said burner box and having at least one peripheral vent cut configured to vent outside air into the burner box to provide air for the gas burner, said at least one vent cut defining a recessed corner of said cooktop; and

a vent trim attached to said cooktop and covering the vent cut, said vent trim having a surface with openings above a top surface of the cooktop, wherein said openings are configured to allow outside air to enter the vent cut through the vent trim.

17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) An apparatus in accordance with ~~Claim 17~~ Claim 16 wherein said vent trim comprises a venting portion and an attachment portion overlapping a portion of the cooktop, wherein said attachment portion is sealed to said cooktop in water-tight engagement.

19. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 18 wherein said seal comprises adhesive tape.

20. (currently amended) An apparatus in accordance with ~~Claim 17~~ Claim 16 further comprising at least one clip under said vent trim and said cooktop, said clip fixedly attaching said vent trim to said cooktop.

21. (currently amended) An apparatus in accordance with ~~Claim 17~~ Claim 16 having wherein said corner of said cooking top is a rear corner of said cooking top.

22. (currently amended) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 21 having a plurality of said vent cut each disposed at more than one rear corner of said cooktop.

23. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 16 wherein said vent trim comprises a venting portion and an attachment portion overlapping a portion of the cooktop, wherein said attachment portion is sealed to said cooktop in water-tight engagement.

24. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 16 further comprising at least one clip under said vent trim and said cooktop, said clip fixedly attaching said vent trim to said cooktop.

25. (currently amended) A gas cooking apparatus comprising:

at least one gas burner;

a burner box for said at least one gas burner;

a sealed cooktop configured to cover said burner box and having at least one peripheral vent cut configured to vent outside air into the burner box to provide air for the gas burner; and

an elongate cover member attached to a top face of said cooktop and covering the vent cut, said cover member having a surface with openings configured to allow outside air to enter the vent cut through the cover member, ~~and~~ said cover member including a raised surface isolating said openings from spills on said cooktop, said raised surface defining an underlying cavity, and said cover member comprising at least one tab extending into said cavity to mount said cover member on said top face.

26. (currently amended) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 25 wherein said cover member extends along an entire side of ~~a~~ said top face of said cooktop.

27. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 25 wherein said vent cut is along an edge of said cooktop exclusive of a corner of said cooktop.

28. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 27 wherein said cooktop has a plurality of vent cuts along said edge exclusive of said corner.

29. (currently amended) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 25 wherein said elongate cover member is attached in water tight engagement along a side of a said top face of said cooktop.

30. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 29 wherein said attachment comprises adhesive tape.